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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS REPORTS FONMIN'S REMARKS ON PAK TONG-SON CASE
REF: SEOULD 7763 (DTG 130846Z SEP 77)
SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO PAK TONG-SON CASE. FOCUS NOW CENTERS ON POSSIBLE VISIT TO KOREA BY JAWORSKI AND POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF US DEMANDS FOR PAK'S RETURN TO US. PRESS NOTES DISCUSSION OF US METHOD OF DEALING WITH JAPANESE REQUESTS IN LOCKHEED AS POSSIBLE SOLUTION. END SUMMARY.
1. KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS SEPTEMBER 14 CONTINUED MAJOR, FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PAK TON-SON CASE, FEATURED BY HEADLINES THAT US SHOWING SIGNS OF ADJUSTING POSITION AND WITHDRAWING REQUEST FOR RETURN OF PAK.
2. KEY PART IN PICTURE IS REMARKS FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN MADE AT KIMPO AIRPORT MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 14 BEFORE LEAVING FOR US.
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FONMIN WAS QUOTED IN SEVERAL PAPERS (BELOW FOLLOWS TONGA ILBO) AS SAYING. "IF SPECIAL COUNSEL JAWORSKI COMES TO KOREA, (WE) CAN CONSIDER COOPERATING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR LAWS." ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PAK TONG-SON REFUSED TO MEET JAWORSKI, FONMIN SIAD, "ROKG CAN URGE MR PAK TO MEET INVESTIGATOR JAWORSKI." COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DIPLOMATIC WORDS HERE DO NOT SO INDICATE, WE BELEIVE THIS MEANS THAT ROKG WOULD GUARANTEE MEETING WITH PAK TONG-SON. END COMMENT.
ASKED ABOUT FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS THAT ROKG HAD INVITED JAWORSKI TO COME TO KOREA. FONMIN SIAD "WE HAVE NEVER DONE SO" BUT WILL ARRANGE A MEETING WITH PAK TONG-SON IF HE COMES. ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT USG SEEMS TO HAVE WITHDRAWN ITS REPUESTS FOR PAK'S RETURN, FONMIN SAID, "LET'S WAIT AND SEE."
3. OTHER ARTICLES IN AFTERNOON PAPERS SPECULATED THAT, IN VIEW OF HARD LINE BEING TAKEN BY PAK TONG-SON AND ROKG, USG WOULD HAVE TO FIND A METHOD OTHER THAN RETURN OF PAK IN ORDER TO SOLVE PROBLEM. TONGA ILBO CITING "A RELATED GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL" STATED THAT ROKG HAS BEGUN TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL HOW ROKG COULD COOPERATE WITH US TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS. TONGA CONTINUES

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THAT SOURCE SUGGESTED PRECEDENT OF JAPANESE INVESTIGATORS WHO INTERVIEWED LOCKHEED VICE PRESIDENT KOTCHIAN (PHONETIC) IN PRESENCE OF US DEPT OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS AS ONE POSSIBLE METHOD. ANOTHER SOUCE HINTED THAT, AS ROKG COULD NOT ALLOW US INVESTIGATORS TO MEET WITH PAK ALONE, ROKG WAS DISCUSSING HAVING ROK INVESTIGATORS ASK ABOUT WHAT US WANTS TO KNOW. TONGA QUOTES RELATED O FFICIALS
AS SAYING TIME WILL BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE US REACTION TO THESE SUGGESTIONS, AND AS HINTING STRONGLY THAT NO OTHER COMPROMISE IS POSSIBLE.
4. PAPERS ALSO CARRY WIRE SERVICE STORIES FROM WASHINGTON NOTING JAWORSKI ON SEPTEMBER 13 HAD REFUSED IMMEDIATE COMMENT
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ON ROKG SUGGESTION IT WOULD PERMITHIM TO VISIT KOREA AND THAT ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVILETTI HAD SAID, IF JAWORSKI WENT TO KOREA, DEPT OF JUSTICE WOULD CONSIDER ROKG DEMAND TO RELINQUISH REQUEST FOR FORCIBLE RETURN OF PAK TONG-SON. ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT JAWORSKI'S ADVISORS ANNOUNCED HE WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 14, BUT SAID THEY COULD NOT CLARIFY WHETHER THIS WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH ROKG'S PERMISSION TO VISIT. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES SOURCES ON HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO EFFECT JAWORSKI MIGHT BE SENT TO KOREA, SAYING THE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT SEPT 14 MEETING OF ETHICS COMMITTEE, BUT THAT, WITHOUT A GUARANTEE FROM PAK TONG-SON BEFOREHAND OF "DETAILED AND USEFUL ANSWERS", JAWORSKI'S PLANNED TRIP WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED.
5. PAPERS HAVE ALSO REPORTED ON OBERDORFER ARTICLE RELATING TO DECISION TO WITHHOLD REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR TRANSFER AUTHORITY AND PAK TONG SON CASE AND SEPT 13
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR FRONT PAGE ARTICLE WHICH ASSERTS THAT CONGRESSIONAL EXPERS BELIEVE US WILL LIKELY PRESSURE ROKG BY AID CUT SHOULD AMERICA FAIL TO SOBPOENA PAK.
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